

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please amend the figures as shown in the enclosed replacement sheets. The attached sheet(s) of drawings includes changes to Figures 1, 2, and 6. Specifically, figures 1, 2, and 6 have been amended to include a "Prior Art" label, as suggested by the Examiner in the Office Action mailed September 25, 2007. No new matter is added by way of the amended drawings.

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application and for indicating that claims 2-5 and 7-10 include allowable subject matter.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-18 are pending in this application. Claims 11-18 have been newly added by this reply. Claims 1 and 2 are independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claims 1 and 2.

Drawings

Figures 1, 2, and 6 are objected to by the Examiner for failing to include a "Prior Art" label, as only that which is old is shown. Thus, Figures 1, 2, and 6 have been amended to include the "Prior Art" designation, per the Examiner's suggestions. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Claim Amendments and Allowable Subject Matter

Independent claim 1 has been amended to clarify the invention as recited and to correct minor informalities. Claim 2 has been amended to be rewritten in independent form, including all the limitations of claim 1. Thus, independent claim 2 is now allowable, as indicated by the Examiner on page 4 of the Office Action mailed September 25, 2007. No new matter is added by way of these amendments. Support for these amendments may be found, for example, on page 10 of the Specification.

Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Per the Examiner's suggestions on page 2 the Office Action mailed September 25, 2007, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the term "contactor" in the preamble. Claims 2-5 and 7-10 are no longer dependent on claim 1, and thus do not inherit the same defect. Claim 6 is now correct by way of its dependency on amended independent claim 1. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0067231 ("Kurasawa"). Claim 1 has been amended to clarify the invention as recited. To the extent that this rejection may still apply to the amended claim, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Turning to the rejection of the claims, for anticipation under 35 U.S.C. § 102, the reference must teach every aspect of the claimed invention either explicitly or impliedly. Any feature not directly taught must be inherently present. *See* MPEP § 2131. The Applicant respectfully asserts that Kurasawa does not disclose the limitations of amended independent claim 1.

Specifically, Kurasawa fails to disclose an electromagnetic contractor having an annular rib extending continuously opposite the cylindrical periphery of the main stationary core. Rather, in Kurasawa, the rib (5d) extends continuously opposite the cylindrical periphery of the cap (14), rather than the main stationary core (10) (*see* Kurasawa, Figure 1). Said another way, the rib (5d) of Kurasawa is actually adjacent to the cylindrical periphery of the main stationary

core (10) instead of being *opposite* to the cylindrical periphery of the main stationary core. Further, amended independent claim 1 now recites that the outer periphery of the main stationary core is in close contact with the inside periphery of the annular rib. *See* Specification, page 10 (describing the side plate of the main stationary core). Thus, the main stationary core of the present invention is in close proximity while being opposite to the inside periphery of the annular rib. Figure 1 of Kurasawa fails to show or suggest that the outer periphery of the main stationary core is in close proximity to the inside periphery of the annular rib while still being *opposite* to the annular rib.

In view of the above, it is clear that Kurasawa fails to disclose each and every limitation of the amended independent claims. Thus, amended independent claim 1 is patentable over Kurasawa. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Kurasawa in view of the Applicant's admitted prior art ("APA"). To the extent that this rejection may still apply to the amended claims, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

As described above, amended independent claim 1 is patentable over Kurasawa. Further, APA fails to supply that which Kurasawa lacks, as evidenced by the fact that the Examiner relies on APA solely for the purpose of disclosing serrations on the end of the housing to immobilize the cap from rotation. *See* Office Action mailed September 25, 2007, page 4. Thus, amended independent claim 1 is patentable over Kurasawa and APA, whether considered separately or in combination. Claim 6 is dependent on claim 1, and is patentable over Kurasawa and APA for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

New Claims

Dependent claims 11-18 have been newly added by this reply. No new matter is added by way of the newly added claims, as support for dependent claims 11-18 may be found, for example, in paragraphs [0052]-[0053], [0060]-[0061], and [0069]-[0071] of the Specification.

Newly added claims 11-18 depend, directly or indirectly, from amended independent claim 1. Thus, dependent claims 11-18 are patentable over the cited prior art for at least the same reasons described above with respect to amended independent claim 1. Accordingly, favorable consideration of the newly added claims is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 17170/013001).

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

Jonathan P. Osha
Registration No.: 33,986
OSHA · LIANG LLP
1221 McKinney St., Suite 2800
Houston, Texas 77010
(713) 228-8600
(713) 228-8778 (Fax)
Attorney for Applicant

Attachments Two Replacement Sheets for Figures 1, 2, and 6